

What is Claimed is:

1. An apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of a
copyright medium, comprising: an encrypted copyright
5 medium for sale; a copyright medium identification
database storing a copyright medium unique identification
database for use in uniquely identifying the copyright
medium and a cipher key database; an Smart card or other
recording medium; an Smart card or other recording medium
10 data reading/writing device, which is capable of writing
data into said Smart card or other recording medium; and a
fingerprint authentication device for collating and
identifying fingerprint data of a purchaser of said
copyright medium, wherein data is read from said copyright
15 medium identification database in order to write the
copyright medium unique identification database and the
cipher key database into said Smart card or other
recording medium by using said Smart card or other
recording medium data reading/writing device, wherein
20 fingerprint data of the purchaser of said copyright medium
is read by using said fingerprint authentication device,
and wherein the purchaser's fingerprint data, the
copyright medium unique identification data, and the
cipher key are written into the Smart card or other
25 recording medium by using the Smart card or other
recording medium data reading/writing device.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a data

structure of data written or read to or from said Smart card or other recording medium comprises a group of a plurality of copyright medium identification data, a group of cipher keys corresponding to a plurality of copyright mediums, purchaser's fingerprint data of the copyright mediums, and a group of purchaser's private data.

3. An apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of a copyright medium, comprising: an encrypted copyright medium for sale; a copyright medium identification database storing a copyright medium unique identification database for use in uniquely identifying the copyright medium and a cipher key database; an Smart card or other recording medium; an Smart card or other recording medium data reading/writing device, which is capable of writing data into said Smart card or other recording medium; a fingerprint authentication device for collating and identifying fingerprint data of a purchaser of said copyright medium; a copyright medium reproducing device for reproducing or copying data from said copyright medium; and an image/sound reproducer, wherein data is loaded from said copyright medium and said Smart card or other recording medium into said copyright medium reproducing device, and wherein a fingerprint of the purchaser of the copyright medium is read by using said fingerprint authentication device and collated with purchaser's fingerprint data recorded in the Smart card or other recording medium, and if they match, encrypted data

in said copyright medium is decoded and reproduced by said image/sound reproducer.

4. An apparatus for preventing an unauthorized use of a copyright medium, comprising: an encrypted copyright medium for sale; a copyright medium identification database storing a copyright medium unique identification database for use in uniquely identifying the copyright medium and a cipher key database; an Smart card or other recording medium; an Smart card or other recording medium data reading/writing device, which is capable of writing data into said Smart card or other recording medium; a fingerprint authentication device for collating and identifying fingerprint data of a purchaser of said copyright medium; a copyright medium reproducing/copying device for reproducing or copying data from said copyright medium; and an image/sound reproducer, wherein data is loaded from said copyright medium and said Smart card or other recording medium into said copyright medium reproducing/copying device, and wherein a fingerprint of the purchaser of the copyright medium is read by using said fingerprint authentication device and collated with purchaser's fingerprint data recorded in the Smart card or other recording medium, and if they match, encrypted data in said copyright medium is decoded and reproduced by said image/sound reproducer or copied after transferring the copyright medium unique identification database and the cipher key database to another copyright medium

reproducing/copying device.